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GELLYGAER
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



R E P O R T

OF THE

**Medical Officer of
Health**

For the Year 1925.

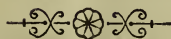


RHYMNEY :

**G. J. JACOBS AND CO., TRADE UNION PRINTERS,
VICTORIA BUILDINGS.**



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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



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G. J. JACOBS AND CO., TRADE UNION PRINTERS,
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Urban District Council of Gellygaer, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban
District Council of Gellygaer.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith
a Report dealing with the Vital Statistics and the
General Sanitary Condition of this District during
the year 1925.

This Report is drawn up in accordance with
the Orders and Memoranda of the Ministry of
Health, and I have appended several additional
Reports of other matters of interest in the
District.

There was no change in the personnel of
the staff of this department during the year, and
the three Sanitary Inspectors still continue their
constant interest and help in the work of the
department. To them and to the Matron of the
Isolation Hospital, I beg to take this opportunity
of conveying my best thanks.

To the Chairman and Members of the Coun-
cil I am duly grateful for their ever ready
co-operation and kindness.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. RANKIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Hengoed.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT DESCRIBING ITS PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER.

The Gellygaer Urban District is situated along the North Eastern border of Glamorganshire, and separated by the Rhymney River from the County of Monmouth. Its greatest length North to South is about twelve miles; whereas its width is comparatively narrow, being about four miles at its widest points. It comprises an area of 16,654 acres, exclusive of that area covered by water, the District is, roughly, almond-shaped, tapering at the North and South extremities. The District is very hilly in character, and even at its lowest level at its Southern extremity, viz, the River Bridge at Ystrad Mynach, is 331 feet above sea level. The extreme Northern point is between 1,700 and 1,800 feet above sea level. The Northern extremity of your District is continued as a more or less barren table land, being the source of the streams which intersect your District and divide it into four distinct valleys, viz. :—

(1) The Rhymney Valley, through which the Rhymney River flows, and serves to divide your District and the County from the County of Monmouth.

(2) The Bargoed Taff Valley, through which flows the Bargoed Taff River and divides your District from the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil.

(3) The intervening portion of your District is further intersected into two smaller Valleys, namely:—

(a) Deri and Fochriw Valley, which joins the Rhymney Valley at Bargoed.

(b) The Cylla Valley, which joins the Rhymney Valley at Ystrad Mynach

The whole of the Valleys, taken generally, are characterized by their narrowness and the precipitous nature of their sides, and as such do not offer the best facilities for building sites. The generally heavy rainfall experienced has rendered the work of dealing with surface water very difficult, but much progress is being made to protect the inhabitants in this direction, but at times the rainfall is so great as to cause considerable inconvenience and discomfort to residents.

The Geological formation of your District is characteristic of the South Wales Coal Basin. At the Northern end the limestone crops out; a little further South comes the outcrop of the coal measures. The coal measures are overlaid by nutstone grit and what is termed a conglomerate, while the Valleys contain much loose porous soil with here and there beds of retentive clays. The subsoil drainage, on the whole, is satisfactory and favourable to the Public Health. Practically the whole parish overlies valuable seams of coal of varying depths, which are such a great source of wealth to the County of Glamorgan.

The upper seams of coal are worked by levels and shallow pits, and are more or less denuded.

The deeper seams of steam coal are worked by means of deep shafts in the valleys, and practically the whole of the adult male population is employed in the getting of such coal. There is no other industry of any note. Farming and agriculture are almost negligible. The towns and villages in your District have sprung up as a natural sequence of affairs around the collieries, and the absence of any system of town-planning in the past is readily apparent.

ELEVATIONS ABOVE ORDNANCE DATUM.

Feet.

1. LOWEST POINT IN DISTRICT—			
	River Bridge at Ystrad Mynach	...	331
2. HIGHEST POINT IN DISTRICT—			
	Pwll-Mere at Northern part of Fochriw		
	Ward	...	1,756
3.	Hengoed Station	...	463
4.	Pengam Station	...	489
5.	Gellygaer Church	...	751
6.	Isolation Hospital	...	740
7.	Tirphil Station	...	700
8.	Gwaelodybrithdir Cemetery	...	786
9.	Pontlottyn Station (about)	...	830
10.	Blaen Rhymney Water Works	...	1,167
11.	Graigfargoed Cemetery	...	1,013
12.	Bedlinog Station	...	821
13.	Fochriw Station	...	1,137
14.	Rhymney Bridge Station	...	1,059

The Housing of the people will be dealt with later in the Report.

The Gellygaer Urban District Council is divided into six Wards, namely:—

Wards.	Estimated Population.	Represent- ation.
Pontlottyn	5044	3
Tirphil	4339	3
Fochriw	5044	3
Bedlinog	5549	3
Bargoed	13580	7
Hengoed	13453	6

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1925.

Area-acres (land and inland water)	16,772.		Year 1920
Population, 47,510 R.G.	...	...	41,389
Census 1921, 43,131.			
Number of Inhabited Houses, 8,547	...	...	7,863
Rateable Value, £196,840	...	...	£198,058
Sum represented by a penny rate, £630.			

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	M.	F.	Birth rate.	
Births { Legitimate	1125	558	567	24·37	Tot. Births, 1,467 ; Rate, 35·44
{ Illegitimate	33	14	19	per 1,000	Illegitimate births, 41.
Deaths ...	535	295	240		Tot. Deaths, 526.
Death Rate, 11·26 per 1,000					12·7 per 1,000
Number of women dying in or in conse-				from Sepsis, 4	1
quence of child-birth				„ other causes, 2	9

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year, 110	134
Infantile Mortality, Rate 95 per 1,000 births registered	90
Deaths from Measles (all ages), 25	25
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages), 18	3
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), 8	16

INFANTILE MORTALITY—continued.

Birth-rate in Gellygaer	1924.	1925.	
" 157 smaller towns	24·46	24·37	35·44
" England and Wales	18·9	18·3	
The natural increase of population or the excess of births over deaths, in 1925, amounted to 623	18·8	18·3	25·4
			941

ILLEGITIMACY.

There were registered during the year 33 illegitimate births, the number for 1924 being 27	41
The number recorded for the year under review is equivalent to 69 per 1,000 of the total population	·98
and to 28·41 per 1,000 births	27·94

DEATHS.

Death-rate per 1,000 in Gellygaer	1924.	1925.	
" " 157 smaller towns	10·61	11 26	12·7
" " England and Wales	11·2	11·2	
" " "	12·2	12·2	12·4

HOSPITALS.

1. Tuberculosis. No Hospital accommodation in this district, all cases under the Welsh National Memorial.

2. Maternity. No Hospital available. At present there is a proposal to join with the Caerphilly Urban District Council for a joint Maternity Hospital.

3. Children's. No Children's Hospital. Cases for operation and other forms of treatment are admitted to outside Hospitals.

4. Fever. The Gellygaer Fever Hospital within the area of the Urban District is situated 740 feet above ordinance datum in an easily accessible position in the neighbourhood of the village of Gellygaer. The Medical Officer of Health acts as the Visiting Physician.

5. Small Pox. Arrangements are in progress for a temporary Hospital to be erected on a site which has been acquired by the Council on the Gellygaer Common.

6. Other Hospitals receiving patients from this District are the Cardiff and Bristol General Hospitals, Rhymney and Aberbargoed Cottage Hospitals, etc.

There is no Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children in the area.

7. Ambulance. The Council own a well appointed Ambulance which is garaged at the Hospital and used for Infectious cases only.

For non-infectious cases provision is made by the various Collieries and Workmen's Funds.

TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.

1925. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	All Ages.	Under 1	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 and up- wards
Scarlet Fever	44	1	10	33	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	188	3	38	127	10	10	—	—
Typhoid	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	33	1	—	—	3	14	13	2
Pneumonia	108	13	52	10	8	10	10	5
Encephalitis Lethargica	5	—	—	1	1	2	1	—
Septicemia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neona- torum	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox	256	19	107	125	4	1	—	—
Cerebro Spinal	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Totals	644	42	207	297	27	39	24	8

TOTAL DEATHS.

Under 1	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 and up- wards	All Ages.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	4	8	1	1	—	—	14
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
—	7	13	18	2	4	4	48
—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	11	22	19	4	5	5	66

1925.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

1925.	NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases Notified.										Total Cases Notified in each Ward.							HOSPITAL.		
		At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								65 and upwards.	Pontlottyn Ward.	Fochriw Ward.	Tir Phil Ward.	Beddington Ward.	Bargoed Ward.	Hengoed Ward.	Total.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.	Discharged.
			Under 1.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.												
Scarlet Fever	44	1	10	33								1	1	7	10	25	44	44	1	45
Diphtheria	188	3	38	127	10	10						12	27	49	46	26	188	176	12	156
Typhoid Fever	1			1								1					1			
Puerperal Fever	1					1								1			1			
Erysipelas	33	1			3	14	13	2				4		3	22	4	33			
Pneumonia	108	13	52	10	8	10	10	5			1	8		15	60	24	108			
Encephalitis Lethargica		5			1	1	2	1					1		2	1	1	5			
Septicæmia	1							1						1			1			
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		5	5										2			2	1	5			
Chicken Pox	256	19	107	125	4	1					9	8	9	22	163	45	256			
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2			1	1										1	1	2			
Pulmonary Tuberculosis		62		3	3	19	24	12	1			10	4	4	9	29	6	62			
Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary		22		5	12	3	2					2	1	1	2	11	5	22			
Totals	728	42	215	313	49	64	36	9			50	42	42	111	345	138	728	220	13	201

1925.

TUBERCULOSIS,

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	3	—	1	3	—	—	1	1
5	—	1	4	3	—	—	—	1
10	1	1	3	3	—	—	2	2
15	6	4	3	—	5	6	1	—
20	4	5	—	—	2	4	2	—
25	6	6	2	—	5	2	1	—
35	10	2	—	—	1	1	—	1
45	3	4	—	—	3	1	1	—
55	3	1	—	—	1	2	1	—
65 and upwards	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Totals	38	24	13	9	18	17	9	5

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

1. Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

DR. GILMORE COX'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Maternity
and Child Welfare Committee.

MISS JONES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report
for the year ending 31st December, 1925.

Registered Births—1150.

Infant Deaths—

(a) One year and under, 105	} 171 Total.
(b) Five years to over 12 mths. 66	

Maternal Deaths, 5.

Total Rents for 7 Clinics - £1777 1 6.

Total Board of Health Grants earned, £614 1 2

There are still seven Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics in the Gellygaer Urban District. Notwithstanding that several very strenuous efforts have been made to establish at least one more at Hengoed Garden Village, nothing to date has eventuated.

As heretofore the Brithdir mothers attend the Bargoed Clinic, the Tirphil mothers attend the Pontlottyn Clinic, and the Hengoed Garden Village mothers attend the Ystrad Mynach Clinic—when the weather is good enough.

I hope it is only a question of days now, before we can move into the new Bargoed Clinic (Old Fire Station) from the Bargoed Church Hall. The temperature of the Bargoed Clinic (Bargoed Church Hall) is, week after week, all through this severe weather, 48°F and 50°F , instead of 65°F . The Clinic work is ruined, to say nothing about the health of the Nurses being ruined by working for hours in a room where the temperature is usually 48°F .

It seems useless to think of new Clinics being opened at Hengoed Garden Village and Tirphil in the near future. All the reasons urged in former years for establishing Clinics in Hengoed Garden Village and Tirphil apply with greater force this year, when the times are so much harder than formerly, and the people are poorer and the children require more supervision than in normal and prosperous times. With the registered births well over 1000 for this year in the Gellygaer Urban District, Welfare Clinics seem more necessary than ever they were before in this area.

I am glad to report that waterclosets have been constructed for the Pontlottyn Clinic during the year, and this place is now much more satisfactory than formerly. Also, I am glad to say that an old disused watercloset belonging to the Fochriw Clinic has been repaired and made serviceable during the year. This, too, is now very satisfactory and adds greatly to the convenience of this Clinic.

Treatment continues to be given at all the Clinics for simple ailments, such as simple eye diseases, dyspepsia, diarrhoea, skin diseases, bronchitis, etc. Treatment of simple diseases adds very

greatly to the usefulness of the Clinics, and often the earliest stages of diseases are seen in the Clinics, and these, when treated at once, can be cured and the child restored to good health.

Simple medicines and dressings are stocked at all the Clinics. All medicines are paid for by patients who can afford to pay, but patients who are poor and cannot afford to pay, get their medicines free. No patient goes away without treatment if treatment is required.

All operations and serious diseases are referred to the patients' own doctors or to one of the neighbouring Hospitals for treatment. Small operations, like circumcision, have been sent to Cardiff (King Edward VII Hospital) for treatment—when there has been no other way of getting the operation done—and larger operations have been sent to Bristol (Royal Infirmary). There is little difficulty about getting out-door or in-door tickets when they are required.

RETURN FOR THE YEAR 1925 (Table I.)

Name of Clinic.	New Patients seen.	Old Patients seen.	Total Patients seen.	Attendance at Clinics.
Bargoed ...	208	962	1170	2475
Pontlloctyn ...	107	596	703	1734
Ystrad ...	85	477	562	1445
Bedlinog ...	36	372	408	965
Trelewis ...	25	162	187	594
Fochriw ...	46	427	473	609
Deri ...	51	428	479	1174
	558	3424	3982	8996

Among the 558 new patients seen for the first time this year, 386 were infants who were nursed by their mothers.

RETURN FOR THE YEAR 1925 (Table II.)

Name of Clinic.	Ante-natal cases seen.	Nursing Mothers.
Bargoed ...	9	141
Pontlloctyn ...	6	58
Ystrad Mynach ...	5	63
Bedlinog ...	—	29
Trelewis ...	2	19
Fochriw ...	1	36
Deri ...	—	40
	23	386

Much trouble is taken to instruct and help mothers in matters of good health, food, clothes, etc., and if only times had been normal, the results would have been more marked than they are. But even as it is, there are many young children in this district who have never had a day's illness in their lives.

Table I gives the total number of children who have attended the Clinics, together with the total number of new and old patients seen during the year 1925.

Table II. Since May, 1924, Ante-natal work has been carried on in the Clinics, and this year 23 expectant mothers have been seen—last year 57 expectant mothers were seen.

To those of the expectant mothers whose circumstances seemed to be very poor, it was suggested that they should be confined in one of the neighbouring Poor Law Hospitals, but without any results. Not one expectant mother availed herself of the benefits of going to a Poor Law Hospital for her confinement. One mother went for her confinement to the Bristol Royal Infirmary, as a paying or partly paying patient.

Much education is required before expectant mothers will willingly come to the Welfare Clinics for Ante-natal advice and examination. Although every effort is made to minimise and curtail all questions and examinations, still it (ante-natal work) is not popular, and when a mother has made one visit she scarcely ever comes a second time, although she admits that ante-natal advice and examination are very good in the abstract, but still for her special case it is not necessary.

TABLE III.

WARD DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTHS IN 1925

	Jan.	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Bargoed ...	34	21	26	34	31	22	36	28	28	43	20	16	342
Bedlinog ...	7	9	13	9	8	6	8	11	8	16	16	10	121
Fochriw ...	11	10	7	9	16	7	8	7	11	8	9	13	116
Hengoed (upper)													
Hengoed (lower)	23	26	31	33	29	24	36	35	36	21	25	25	344
Pontlottyn ...	7	11	7	8	11	10	15	6	10	10	5	10	110
Tirphil ...	7	9	4	10	17	11	7	10	12	17	9	4	117
	89	89	88	103	112	80	110	97	105	115	84	78	1150

Table III. Notifications of Births continue to be sent to me twice every week by the Medical Officer of Health. The Health Visitors in due course visit and re-visit the infants and enter particulars of their visits upon Cards provided for the purpose. The cards are inspected and signed by me every week. "Still-birth Cards" and "Expectant Mother Cards" were introduced into the Health Visitors' work last year. These cards enable the Health Visitors to get into touch with, and keep in touch with many expectant mothers, who otherwise would not be known to us, and sometimes the Nurses are able to get the ailing expectant mothers to attend the Welfare Clinics for advice and treatment

The Still-birth Cards also enable the Health Visitors to learn something of the causes of the deaths of the infants.

STILL-BIRTHS. Sixty-three cases of Still-births were investigated during the year.

Health Visitors visiting infants for the first time always impress upon the mothers that they must visit the Welfare Clinics with the infants as soon as they can, and infants visiting the Welfare Clinics for the first time are always inspected by me, and instructions are given to the mothers on all matters where they require help and guidance, and the mothers are asked to return at an early date for the re-inspection. It is very difficult to get many mothers to realise that their children must be inspected and re-inspected at frequent intervals to ensure that the child's health is good and satisfactory.

The same complaint has to be made this year that was made last year, that many children attend the Clinics quite regularly for some months of their early life, and then are kept away for months or years, and later, when their health is thoroughly bad, they attend the Clinics again. The mothers' excuse for this sort of erratic attendance is that she did not think she need attend the Clinic as long as the baby's health was quite good.

The Health Visitors always attend their own Clinics. Two Nurses attend the Bargoed Clinic—Nurse Rees helps Nurse Skey one week, and Nurse Lewis helps Nurse Skey the next week.

Nurse Skey helps Nurse Rees at Pontlottyn Clinic every week. At Ystrad Mynach (Nurse Lewis' Clinic) there are several very good Voluntary Helpers and a second Health Visitor is not required here.

Nurse Skey helps Nurse Lewis at Bedlinog. At Trelewis Nurse Lewis manages for herself, as this is a small Clinic. At Fochriw Nurse Rees has a very good Voluntary Helper in Mrs. Evans, and at Deri, Nurse Rees has a most obliging Voluntary Helper in Miss John. The rest of the Nurses' time is spent in visiting and re-visiting the mothers and children in their districts. Table IV. gives an account of their visits during the year.

RETURNS FOR THE YEAR 1925 (Table IV.)

First Visits to Expectant Mothers.

Nurse Rees	...	...	86
Nurse Lewis	...	...	64
Nurse Skey	...	...	85
			<hr/>
			235
			<hr/>

Total Visits to Expectant Mothers.

Nurse Rees	...	...	144
Nurse Lewis	...	...	87
Nurse Skey	...	...	97
			<hr/>
			228
			<hr/>

First Visits to Infants under one year.

Nurse Rees	...	...	355
Nurse Lewis	...	...	395
Nurse Skey	...	...	476
			<hr/>
			1226
			<hr/>

Total Visits to Infants under one year.

Nurse Rees	...	...	2704
Nurse Lewis	...	...	1394
Nurse Skey	...	...	1842
			<hr/>
			5940
			<hr/>

RETURN FOR THE YEAR 1925 (Table IV.)

Total visits to Infants under five years.

Nurse Rees	...	...	1850
Nurse Lewis	...	...	2250
Nurse Skey	...	...	1705
			<hr/>
			5805
			<hr/>

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Five

~~Six~~ cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were reported this year. One was rather a severe case and the others were very slight.

All made good recoveries.

Dried milk is bought by everybody who requires it. It is very necessary for the Clinics to stock and sell Glaxo and Cowandgate, so as to prevent the children being reared upon cheap tinned milks. These two dried milks are clean and germ-free, and the results, as seen in the health of the infants, everything that one could desire.

Necessitous mothers and children who require free milk are supplied with fresh cow's milk—the best cows' milk that can be got locally—and the quantity given is one pint per head per day for two or four weeks at a time. At the end of this time the patients are taken off the milk unless it is necessary to keep them on the milk list for two or four

weeks longer. Every necessitous case requiring milk is carefully investigated by the Nurse before the case is reported to me and before the milk is granted by me.

Again, during the past Summer—as during the Summer of 1924—there was very little diarrhoea among the children attending the Clinics. Much of this freedom from diarrhoea, I am of opinion, is due to the very general use of dried milks among the infants.

There has been some diarrhoea in the Autumn—as in former years—but this diarrhoea is due to the very unsuitable clothes still worn by many young children. When mothers realise that *every part* of a child's body must be covered with woollen clothes from the Autumn to the late Spring, then I feel sure, Winter diarrhoea will become a disease of the past.

Thrift Clubs have been established at all the Clinics.

Warm garments have been made and distributed to the necessitous children in Nurse Rees's Clinics, and parcels of warm clothes have been received, with grateful thanks, from

Mrs. Phillips, Park House, Park Rd., Hengoed.

Miss Evans, ,, ,, ,, ,,

Mrs. Evans, Bedwlwyn Rd., Ystrad Mynach.

Mrs. Cobner, Bedwlyn Rd., Ystrad Mynach.

Mrs. Morgan, The Surgery, Ystrad Mynach.

Mrs. Rees, Dilwyn Avenue, Hengoed.

Mr. Evans, Cash Stores, Hengoed.

Mr. Price, Brynauon, Park Road, Hengoed.

Also during the year about 50 small flannel and woollen garments have been given to mothers attending the Bedlinog and Trelewis Clinics.

There is a Sewing-room, under the charge of Nurse James, at Ystrad Mynach, where mothers are able to have small garments cut out and placed together. This, I hope, will help the mothers to make their children's clothes.

The following ladies have very kindly assisted as Voluntary Helpers at the Welfare Clinics during the whole year :—

Mrs. Mortimer at Bargoed,

Mrs. Price and Miss Agnes Davies at Pontlloftyn,

Mrs. Evans at Fochriw,

Miss John at Deri.

Mrs. Cobner, Miss Evans, Mrs. Morgan, and Nurse James at Ystrad Mynach.

The hearty good wishes and appreciation of the Welfare Staff go to the Lady Voluntary Helpers for their kindness in attending the Welfare Clinics so regularly.

I wish to record my warmest thanks to the Health Visitors for their kind and sympathetic treatment of the mothers and children in their districts.

During the year eight families of neglected children have been reported to the N.S.P.C.C. In every case improvement has followed under the Inspector's supervision.

INFANT DEATHS

WARD.			Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.
Pontlloctyn	...	...		I	I	2 1
Tir Phil	...	...		2 1		2
Fochriw	...	....	3	1	1	
Bargoed	...	...	2 2	5 3	2 1	5 3
Hengoed (Upper)	...	...	2		2	1
Hengoed (Lower)	...	...	3 1	3	I 1	2 1
Bedlinog	...	...		2	1	3
Total	...	...	10 3	11 7	6 4	14 6

NOTA BENE.—The figures in Black Type indicate Infant Deaths from 5 years to over 1 year, and the figures in Ordinary Type indicate Infant Deaths 1 year and under.

IN 1925 (Table V).

May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
I 1	2 3	2		I 2	I 1	I	2	I2 10
I 1	3			1	1	I 1		9 5
I	2			2			2 2	8 6
4 3	I 1	2 3	5 3	3	5 2	2 2	I 1	37 24
	I 1	I		I		I 1	I	9 3
I 1	2	I	I	2		I 4	2 1	I9 9
2	3 2	I 2		I		2	I	II 9
8 8	I2 9	7 5	6 3	I0 3	6 4	8 8	7 6	I05 66

I wish to express my grateful thanks to Dr. Rankin, the Medical Officer of Health, for his courtesy in permitting me to make use of his Birth and Death Returns for the year 1925. Also, I wish to thank the Registrar for the Infant Death Tables he has so kindly supplied to me during the year.

Yours faithfully,

J. GILMORE-COX, M.B., C.M.

31st December, 1925.

OPHTALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified.	Treated.		Vision Un- impaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	At Home	In Hos- pital.				
5	5	Nil	5	Nil	Nil	Nil

2. Day Nurseries—Nil.

3. School Clinics—Under Glamorgan County Education Authority.

4. Tuberculosis Dispensaries and Stations—Under Welsh National Memorial.

5. Centres for Venereal Diseases—Under Glamorgan County Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

J. H. Rankin, M.B., M.S., D.P.H. (Cantab.), etc.

The M.O.H. also acts as Visiting Physician to the Council's Isolation Hospital.

Sanitary Inspectorate :

Mr. H. J. Brown, C.R.S.I. (Senior).

Mr. Urias Rowlands, C.R.S.I.

Mr. Edward J. Richards, C.R.S.I.

Clerk and Typist—Miss M. Jenkins.

The Inspectors possess Certificates of Efficiency in Meat Inspection, and have also attended advanced courses held under the auspices of the Cardiff City Council.

Superintendent of Infant Welfare Administration—J. Gilmore Cox, M.B., C.M.,

Health Visitors :

Mrs. S. A. Rees
Mrs. J. C. Lewis
Mrs. Skey.

Hospital Staff :

Matron—Miss K. Evans.
Deputy Matron—Vacant.
Caretaker—Mr. Weekes.
Laundress—Mrs. Weekes.

Contributions in respect of Salary are made in the case of the M.O.H., the Sanitary Inspectors, the Infant Welfare Staff, and the Hospital Nursing Staff.

The last ascertained annual contributions of subsidy in respect of the various services are as follows :—

Service.	Period of one year ended	Amount.
Salaries of M.O. and Sanitary Inspectors	30th Sept., 1925	£666 4 2
Hospital Establishment Expenses	31st March, 1925	£997 2 11
M. and C. Welfare	do do.	£620 5 0

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

No special provision is made in this district for Home Nursing except under the Poor Law Administration, a most efficient trained Nurse being in charge in this district.

MIDWIVES.

These are all supervised by the Glamorgan County Council.

The number of midwives at present practicing in the district is 43 trained and 5 untrained.

List of Midwives practising in the Gelligaer Urban District.

- E. Evans, 11, Reform Street, Pontlottyn;
- A. Beard, 48, High Street, Troedrhifwuch.
- R. Thomas, 27, Herbert Street, Brithdir.
- E. J. Lewis, The Square, Penpedairheol.
- C. Sharpe, 8, Mount Pleasant, Cascade.
- E. E. Thomas, 37, Penybryn, Gelligaer.
- T. Necholson, 10, Hengoed Crescent, Hengoed.
- G. Fardoe, 5, Brynavon Terrace, Hengoed.
- E. M. Murphy, 46, Brynavon Terrace, Hengoed.
- G. Harvey, 23, Penallta Roan, Ystrad Mynach.
- C. James, Garnant, Bedwlwyn Road, Ystrad Mynach.
- J. Morris, Brynamlwg, Bedwlwyn Road, Ystrad Mynach
- B. Williams, 65, Pengam Road, Ystrad Myuach.
- E. Morgan, 21, Llancayo Street, Bargoed.
- E. Greenway, Lyndon Terrace, Bargoed,
- E. Dorsett, 64, John Street, Bargoed.
- L. Thomas, 16, West Street, Bargoed.
- S. J. Evans, 24, Henry Street, Bargoed.
- L. A. Stennard, 49, Park Street, Gilfach Fargoed.
- E. G. Perkind, 23, Aeron Place, Gilfach Fargoed.
- M. Harding, 104, Park Street, Gilfach Fargoed.
- M. Lane, 7, St. Mary Street, Gilfach Fargoed.
- E. Watkins, 57, Park Place, Gilfach Fargoed.
- B. Davies, Aelybryn, Fochriw.

- M. Williams, 51, New Road, Deri.
- A. Evans, 27, New Road, Deri.
- E. Davies, 2, Muriel Terrace, Bedlinog.
- E. M. Thomas, 9, George Street, Bedlinog.
- H. A. Jones, 11, Bontnewydd Tersace, Trelewis.
- M. Lewis, 5, High Street, Pontlottyn.
- C. Evans, 17, Wine Ttreet, Pontlottyn.
- E. Davies, Castle Cottages, Gellygaer.
- E. Quick, 13, Chapel Street, Bargoed.
- M. Jones, 11, Chapel Road. Pantywaun.

List of Midwives Practising in the Gellygaer Urban District but residing in other Areas.

- L. Baker, 2, Church Street, Rhymney.
- E. A. Stallard, 2, Queen's Crescent, Rhymney.
- M. Jenkins, 68, Forge Street, Rhymney.
- S. Shoplind, 14, Station Road, Abertysswg.
- M. A. Jones, 13, Alfred Street, Abertysswg.
- J. M. Jones. Sunnybank, Pengam.
- L. Morgan, 8, Buttry Terrace, Pengam.
- E. M. Morgan, 2, Provident Cottages, Maesycwmmer.
- C. E. Jenkins, 7, School Street, Aberbargoed.
- C. Bengough, 73, Pengam Road, Aberbargoed.
- A. Jenkins, 2, Derlwyn Street, New Tredegar.
- M. G. Davies, 55, Jones Street, New Tredegar.
- G. Davies, Bryngwyn, Phillip Street, New Tredegar.
- D. E. Richards, 26, Brynteg, New Tredegar.

LABORATORY WORK.

THE CARDIFF AND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.

The following numbers of specimens were forwarded and examined at the Laboratory during 1925.

Diphtheria	-	720	
Urines	-	4	
Waters	-	4	Chemical
		4	Bacteriological.
Enteric	-	2	
Sputum	-	5	
C.S. Fluid	-	1	

SANITARY LEGISLATURE IN FORCE.

Public Health Act, 1875.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890. **Parts**
1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, adopted December, 1919.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1907, in the
following Sections :—Parts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and
Section 95 of Part 10, also Sections 79, 80, 81, and
Part 7, adopted January, 1920.

Infectious Disease Notification Act, 1889.

Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890.

Notification of Births Act, 1907.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919,
1920.

The Gellygaer Act, 1920.

Shops Act, 1912.

Tuberculosis Regulations, 1912.

The Milk Act, 1922, which materially extends the provisions of D.C. and M. Order, 1885.

Housing Act, 1925.

The Bye-laws are in force for—

- 1 **New Streets and Buildings.**
- 2 **Nuisances.**
- 3 **Household Refuse.**
- 4 **Common Lodging Houses.**
- 5 **Slaughter Houses.**

Regulations are in force for—

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Order, 1885.

(Public Health) Meat Regulations, 1924.

In many of the above there are subsequent Orders modifying the provisions embodied in the original.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY TO THE DISTRICT.

The Rhymney Valley Water Board is the Water Authority for the Rhymney Valley.

The Water Undertakings in the Rhymney Valley were transferred to and became vested in the Rhymney Valley Water Board by the Rhymney Valley Water Act, 1921, by which Act the

Board were authorised to supply and distribute water in the Rhymney Valley.

The Constituent Authorities of the Board, and the number of Members from each Constituent Authority, are the Councils of the Urban Districts of—

Gellygaer	...	5	Members
Caerphilly	...	4	„
Bedwellty	...	3	„
Rhymney	...	2	„
Bedwas and Machen		2	„
Mynyddislwyn	...	1	„

The whole of the Urban District of Gellygaer is within the limits of supply of the Board.

As affecting the Water Supply to the Gellygaer area the sources of supply, within the Board's area, are the Rhymney Reservoirs Nos. 1 and 2, and the Deri Reservoir.

Water is also purchased in bulk from the Taf Fechan Supply Board, of which Board the Rhymney Valley Water Board is a Constituent Authority.

Rhymney Bridge Reservoir No. 1 has a storage capacity of 5,000,000 gallons, T.W.L. 1300.O.D., and is supplied by the Pitwellt Stream.

No. 2 Reservoir has a capacity of 40,000,000 gallons, T.W.L. 1167.O.D., and is supplied by No. 1 Reservoir and the Rhymney River.

The area of the gathering ground is 1,000 acres—500 acres being on the limestone and 500 acres on the millstone grit.

The Rhymney River flows through the limestone area and its bed abounds with swallow holes.

During any dry period the draw off from the Reservoir is considerably greater than the intake, and owing to the small storage capacity of the Reservoirs the supply has to be supplemented with water purchased from the Taf Fechan Supply Board at Dowlais Top. The maximum quantity available, however, is only some 700,000 gallons per diem, and as this is insufficient to meet the demands night restriction is resorted to to conserve the supply.

FILTERS.

A Filter House is erected about 400 yards below the No. 2 Reservoir at Rhymney Bridge, and contains sixteen 8-foot pressure filters, each capable of filtering 6,500 gallons an hour, or a total of 2,496,000 gallons a day.

The Chemical apparatus consists of two Alumina Ferric Tanks and a Whiting Tank with the necessary gear for conveying the chemicals to the main ; the chemicals are used as required.

The Filters are washed out singly—two oil engines being provided for the purpose.

The whole of the Gellygaer area in the Rhymney Valley is supplied from the Rhymney Bridge

Reservoirs, with the exception of Gellygaer Village, portions of Pengam, Hengoed and Ystrad Mynach, which are supplied direct with water purchased from the Taf Fechan Board at Trelewis, and the High Levels of Bargoed, which are supplied from the Deri Reservoir.

The Deri Reservoir, T.W.L. 953.4, has a capacity of $2\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons, and is fed by springs.

The village of Deri is supplied from the Reservoir and also from the Deri Newydd Springs, whilst the High Levels of Bargoed—including the Heolddu Housing Scheme—are also supplied from the Deri Reservoir. The supply is filtered by means of two pressure filters similar to those at Rhymney Bridge.

The districts of Fochriw, Bedlinog and Trelewis are supplied direct with water purchased from the Taf Fechan Board—connections being made with the Supply Board's mains for each district.

As has been stated, the Rhymney Valley Board is a Constituent Authority of the Taf Fechan Supply Board.

Under the Taf Fechan Water Supply Act, 1921—the Rhymney Board is under obligation, after the completion of the Taf Fechan works, to take or pay for a minimum quantity of 1,750,000 gallons of water per day, whilst a further quantity of 2,450,000 gallons per day, making a maximum of 4,200,000 gallons a day, may also be demanded.

It is anticipated the works of the Supply Board required to give the supply will be completed

in 1927, and the Rhymney Board are now constructing the requisite aqueduct to take the additional supply. The new aqueduct is wholly within the Gellygaer area and extends from Trelewis to Pengam, whilst provision is also made, when the necessity arises, for laying a further aqueduct from Gellygaer to Ystrad Mynach.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Rivers and Streams in the district are all considerably polluted from the mines and works on their banks. They are under the supervision of the County Council.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The present arrangement, which is not too satisfactory, is being altered by the provision of subsidiary sewers which will discharge into the Main Trunk Rhymney Sewer. The Contractors are actively carrying out the work.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

See Sanitary Inspector's Reports.

SCAVENGING.

The Scavenging is still not too efficient, being carried out, except in the Bargoed and Ystrad Wards, by private contractors, several of whom give constant cause for complaint by this Department.

No. of Pail Closets in area	324
-----------------------------	-----	-----	-----

No. of Privies and Fixed Receptacles			76
--------------------------------------	--	--	----

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

I beg to submit my Report upon the work of the Sanitary Staff during the year 1925.

The Council's area has been divided into three Sanitary Districts, and each district placed under the supervision of a District Sanitary Inspector.

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS MADE.

As result of Notifiable Infectious Disease	...	411
As result of Complaints	... ..	210
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	468
Slaughterhouses	... ..	497
Factories and Workshops (including Bake-houses, Butchers, Workshops and Cafe Kitchens)	... ..	389
Markets	... ..	25
Ordinary Inspections made (including Cinemas, Public Buildings, Meat Shops, Provision Shops, Lodging houses, Offensive Trades, &c.)	... ..	697
Total number of Inspections made	...	2697
Number of re-visits made	...	1990

DWELLING HOUSES.

A large proportion of the time and attention of the inspectorate is occupied in dealing with structural defects in dwelling-houses, which arise from time to

time, which bring about conditions that are very insanitary and must have a direct bearing upon the health of the occupants. A large amount of work has been done in securing the abatement of nuisances which occur in this way by interviewing property owners, and by the issuing of notices, and it was necessary in 36 cases to institute legal proceedings. The Magistrates made Orders against the respective Owners to carry out the necessary work.

The following is a Schedule of the work done by the District Inspectors and myself.

Number of Nuisances dealt with under Public Health Acts and Bye-Laws as per details below:—

Number of Informal Notices served (P.H.A. 1875)	...	566
No. of Statutory Notices served (P.H.A. 1875)	...	237
No. of Circular Notices served re Cleansing and Lime-washing Registered Trades and Buildings	...	262
Back Yards cleansed	... ..	21
Back Yards paved or repaired	... ..	78
Damp Houses repaired	... ..	155
Dirty Houses cleansed	... ..	21
Defective Sinks put in order	... ..	22
Defective Water Closets put in order	... ..	80
Dilapidated Water Closets repaired	... ..	97
Drains connected to sewer	... ..	5
Drains repaired	... ..	52
Cesspools cleansed	... ..	12
Fowls' Cots removed	... ..	34
Flushing Apparatus in W.C.'s repaired or renewed	... ..	88
Foul Pans in Water Closets cleansed	... ..	20
Gully Traps repaired	... ..	55
Refuse and Manure accumulation removed	... ..	18

Houses repaired (general internal repairs)	...	...	321
Pigs' Cots and Pigs' Food removed	...	...	11
Pigs' Cots drained	...	...	2
Roofs repaired	...	...	208
Stopped Drains cleansed	...	...	62
Stopped Water Closets cleansed	...	...	37
Troughing and Rainwater Pipes provided or repaired	...	...	263
Vent Shafts repaired	...	...	34
Waste Pipes repaired	...	...	29
Water Pipes and Fittings repaired	.....	...	24
Workshops cleansed	...	...	12
Pail Closets repaired	...	...	6
Pails in Closets renewed	...	...	26
Improvised Tents and Sheds removed	...	...	19
Miscellaneous	...	...	39
Pail Closets converted into Water Closets	...	...	4
Total	...	...	1855

24 Houses reported without sufficient Water Supply.

FOOD INSPECTIONS.

The Sanitary Inspectors are also Meat and Food Inspectors, and exercise supervision over the food supply throughout the area. The general quality of the food supplied in the district may be said to be of a good standard, and most of the traders are co-operating with this department in the early disposal of food which is obviously unsound, and in seeking advice in cases where this condition is not so definite. There are a few dealers who trade in an inferior class of food, but which could not be classified as diseased or unsound.

The duties imposed upon Butchers and others under the (Public Health) Meat Regulations, 1924, of giving notice of their intention to slaughter any animal in preparation for food greatly facilitates the work of Meat Inspection.

Two persons were prosecuted during the year for infringements of the Public Health Act and Meat Regulations. The offenders were convicted in each case and penalties imposed.

There is no system of Meat Marking adopted in the district.

The following is a list of articles which have been destroyed by this department.

DISEASED AND UNSOUND FOODS DESTROYED IN 1925.

Articles Destroyed.	Diseased or Unsound.	No of Articles.	lbs. Weight
Beef	Diseased		791
"	Unsound		630
Mutton	"		103
Offal	Diseased and Unsound		3011
Corned and Pressed Beef, tins of	Unsound	33	123
Potted Meat	"	3	3
Tongues, tins of	"	15	82
Brawn	"	2	19
Pork Pies	"	24	12
Saveloys	"	26	6
Fish, tins of	"	57	137
Tomatoes, tins of	"	531	1491
Milk, tins of	"	245	245
Pickles, Bottles	"	9	10
Tomatoe Sauce, Bottles	"	25	9
Jams, tins of	"	30	39
Fruit, tins of	"	229	435
Potatoes, Bags	"	12	1344
Totals	.....	1241	8490
Tons.	Cwt.	Lbs.	
3	15	90	

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION OF THE DISTRICT.

The greater part of the district is provided with water closets, but pail closets and privies still obtain in some parts of the area. The privies are generally attached to farm houses and remote cottages.

No. of Pail Closets - 324

No. of Privies with fixed receptacles 76

The number of pail closets will be greatly reduced when the subsidiary sewers to the Rhymney Valley Trunk Sewer are completed. These are now under construction

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The conditions under which the Milk Trade is carried on in the district are still improving, although the progress may not be so rapid as we desire. There is evident a greater interest amongst certain Producers and Purveyors in the question of providing a cleaner milk supply. There are 71 Producers in the area, and much time has been devoted in trying to effect improvements in the cowsheds and their surroundings, with the result that there are many cowsheds that have been adapted or built which are quite modern, and are a great improvement on the old types. But progress in this matter will be relatively slow, with the restricted powers vested in the Council for dealing with the question,

In securing proper storage of Milk and Utensils by Dairymen and Purveyors, the powers of the Council are somewhat more effective, and licences are not granted until the Council's requirements are complied with.

During the year 15 new dairies have been provided, which are all separate and apart from any dwellings.

SHOPS ACTS, 1912—1920.

The administration of the above Acts and various closing orders made thereunder also form part of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors.

The number of prosecutions taken by the Council for non-compliance with these provisions during the year was 13.

Yours faithfully,

H. J. BROWN,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

REGISTERED BUILDINGS AND TRADES.

Description.	No.	By whom Inspected.	General Condition.	Legal Proceedings.
Common Lodging Houses	5	Sanitary Inspector	3 Modern 2 Fair	Nil
Cowsheds	71	"	"	"
		"	Fair and shows definite improvement	Nil
Dairies	66	"	"	Nil
		"	definite improvement	Nil
Factories	39	"	"	Nil
		"	Good	Nil
Milk Shops	16	"	"	Nil
		"	Good	Nil
Offensive Trades	3	"	"	Nil
		"	Fair	Nil
Slaughter Houses	8	"	"	Nil
		"	Fairly Good	Nil
Workshops	211	"	"	Nil
		"	Good	Nil
Total	419			

TABLE OF SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Situation.	Owner.	Occupier.
Heol Evan Wynne, Pontlloftyn	Council	Council
Lower Coed Cae, Tirphil	Mr J. John, Elliot's Town, New Tredegar	Mr J. John
Railway Terrace, Fochriw	Tom Mathews, Railway Terrace, Fochriw	T. Mathews
Mill Road, Deri	H. Tinney, Mill Road, Deri	H. Tinney
Factory Road, Bargoed	Co-operative Wholesale Society, Bargoed	Co-operative Wholesale Society, Bargoed
Bedwylwyn Road, Ystrad Mynach	W. T. Watkins, Ystrad Mynach	W. T. Watkins
Rear of High Street, Trelewis	Jonah Evans, Trelewis	Jonah Evans, Trelewis
Moriah Street, Bedlinog	Daniel Davies	Daniel Davies

IN THE DISTRICT.

Type of Premises.	Proximity to Dwelling Houses.	Water Supply.	General Sanitary Condition.
Small	Near	Public main	Good
Old Structure	Not near	Public main	Good
Very old structure	Near	Public main	Fair
Old structure (small)	Very near	Public main	Fair
Modern	Distant	Public main	Good
Modern	Near	Public main	Good
Modern	Distant	Private supply	Good
Small	Very near	Public main	Fair

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

Situation of Premises	Owner.	Registered Keeper.
Old Rock Inn, Pontlloftyn	Mr M. Davies, Pontlloftyn	Mr. T. Davies
Premises at rear of Old Rock Inn, Pontlloftyn	„ „	„ „
Greenfield Street, Bargoed	Co-operative Whole- sale Society	May Pritchard
Metropole No. 1, Bargoed	W. H. Bosanko, Bargoed	W. H. Bosanko
Metropole No. 2, Bargoed	„ „	„ „
31, Gw-rthonor Place, Gilfach	B. Edmunds	Sarah E. Melbourne
Bedwyn Road, Ystrad Mynach	Ystrad Mynach Lodg- ing House Co.	Thomas Hall

OF THE DISTRICT.

Type of House:	No. of Rooms.	No. of Beds.	Max. No. of Lodgers	General Sanitary Condition.
Old Licensed Premises	8	8 double beds	16	Good
Old Cottages	4	30 single beds	30	Good
Two Shops converted	9	32 single beds	32	Fair
Modern	4	105 sin- gle beds	105	Good
Two Shops converted	8	24 single 10 double beds	44	Good
Dwelling House	7	8 single 2 double beds	12	Poor
Modern	5	111 sin- gle beds	111	Good

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

The following is a summary of the administration of the Act within the District:—

(1) Inspection of Factories, Workshops, etc.

Premises.	No.	Inspections.	Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories	39	46	Notices requiring Clean-	Nil
Workshops	211	343	sing and Lime Washing	Nil
Work Places	Nil	Nil	are circulated at statutory periods.	Nil

A systematic inspection is made of all Factories and Workshops following the issue of the above Notices, and special attention is being given to places where food is prepared—Bakeries, Butchers, Workshops, etc.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

SIR,

The undermentioned Samples were collected by me within the area of the Gellygaer U.D.C., during year ending 31st December, 1925:—

New Milk	...	...	...	67
Butter	...	...	...	10
Lard	...	...	...	7
Salmon	...	...	...	1
Olive Oil	...	...	...	1

Brown Sugar	...	...	...	1
Coffee	...	...	...	2
Vinegar	...	...	...	1
Condensed Milk	...	...	...	1
Cocoa	...	...	...	2
White Pepper	...	...	...	2
Tea	...	...	...	3
Corned Beef	...	...	...	1
Lardine	...	...	...	1
Margarine	...	...	...	5
Caerphilly Cheese	...	...	...	1
Ground Ginger	...	...	...	2
Sugar	...	...	...	1
Bitter Beer	..	...	...	2
Ground Cinnamon	..	...	...	1
Irish Butter		...	...	1
Irish Lard		...	...	1
Egg substitute powder	...	...	...	1
Ovaltine	..	...	...	1
Calves feet jelly		...	...	1
Dessicated cocoanut		...	...	1
Tapioca	...	...	...	1
Sardines	...	...	...	1
Chicken and ham paste		...	...	1
Grount Nutmeg		...	...	1
				<hr/>
Total	...	..	...	122
				<hr/>

Six samples of new milk were declared to be deficient in butter fat, the deficiency varying between 10 % and 15 %.

One sample of coffee contained 15 % chicory.

The remaining Samples were certified to be genuine and equal to the required standard.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS.

Seven outbreaks of Swine Fever were confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries within the area during the year 1925, but I am pleased to report the district is now free from all Contagious Diseases of Animals

Yours faithfully,

G GRIFFITHS,

Superintendent.

IX. HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year

(a) Total	...	...	...	165
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme	...	...	...	Nil

1 Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 968

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... Nil

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... Nil

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 566

2 Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 329

3 Action under Statutory Powers.

A—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling - houses which were rendered fit :—		
(a) by Owners	... ..	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	... ..	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close	... ..	Nil

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	237
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—		
(a) by Owners]	... ..	227
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	... ..	10

C—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14
and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| (1) Number of representations
made with a view to the making
of Closing Orders | No
action
taken.
... |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in
respect of which Closing Orders
were made | ,, |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in
respect of which Closing Orders
were determined, the dwelling-
houses having been rendered fit | ,, |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in
respect of which Demolition
Orders were made | ,, |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses
demolished in pursuance of
Demolition Orders | ,, |

ARCHITECT'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 1925.

HOUSING.—On my previous Report for the year ending 1924, I pointed out that 26 houses, under the Addison Assisted Scheme, were in course of erection, and 50 houses under the 1924 Housing Act. Considerable delay, however, has been experienced on these contracts with the consequent postponement of occupation of the houses. But it should be only a matter of a month's time, now the Contractor has overcome his business rearrangements, before the 26 houses referred to under the Addison Scheme can be occupied, with further batches of the 50 houses from month to month.

Since the 1924 Report the Council, have in course of erection 160 houses; 50 of these are being erected at Heolddu site, Bargoed, and 50 houses at Graig site, Hengoed, both under contract; whilst the remaining 60 houses are being erected at Gwerthonor site, Pengam, under the Direct Administration of this Department. All of these 160 houses on each site will be occupied before this report is printed, with further batches of 8 to 10 houses monthly until the Spring, when it is hoped the whole of the Schemes will be completed and the houses all occupied.

The Council have also granted the Subsidy Grant and Loan under the 1923 Housing Act for a further 100 houses at Penallta, which have been completed and occupied, and two houses at Penpedairheol, which have not yet been commenced.

TOWN PLANNING.—The Area Map has been deposited with the Ministry and has been approved.

Progress has been made with the preparation of the “ Preliminary Statement,” which provides for proposals for all principal new roads and streets and widenings of existing roads or streets, fixing of building lines, allocation of restricted areas, provision of open spaces, recreation grounds, allotments, etc., and regulations as to density of buildings.

A Civic Survey of the district is in progress, and valuable data will be available when proposals under the Scheme are considered.

P. JONES WILLIAMS,

L.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I.,

Housing and Town
Planning Architect.

ARCHITECT'S REPORT.

A review of the Housing and Town Planning Schemes from 1920 to the year ending 1925, is as follows :—

In the summer of 1920, the Council commenced, by contracts, the first 66 houses at Heolddu, Bargoed (under the Addison 1919 Act), and were all completed and occupied by April 3rd, 1922.

In August, 1921, the Council Contractors commenced on the erection of 50 houses at Gwerthonor site, Pengam, and 70 houses on the Graig Site, Hengoed (under the Addison Assisted Act, 1919), and the whole of the houses on the Gwerthonor site were completed and occupied by the 8th November, 1922, while the whole of the houses on the Graig site were completed and occupied by the 4th December, 1922.

12 houses (under the 1919 Addison Assisted Scheme) were commenced by contract on Fochriw Common on September 10th, 1923, and were all completed and occupied by June 20th, 1924.

An Enclosure Order had to be obtained prior to building operations on this site as the houses are built on the Fochriw Common.

34 houses (under the 1919 Addison Assisted Scheme) were commenced at the Heolddu site, Bargoed, in June, 1923, and completed and occupied by the 1st December, 1924.

26 houses ((under the 1919 Addison Assisted Scheme), and 50 houses (under the 1924 Wheatley Act) were commenced by contract on September 24th,

1924, on Heolddu site, Bargoed, and should have all been completed and occupied by the end of December, 1925, but owing to the death of the Contractor causing a cessation of work on the houses for about 3 months, I am afraid the last of these houses will not be completed until the spring of next year, although the whole 76 houses are all roofed in and 26 of them should only take about six weeks or so to complete.

Building operations on 160 houses (under the Wheatley Act, 1924) were commenced by the Council at the end of September, 1925, 50 of these are under construction at Heolddu site, Bargoed, by contract, and 50 at Graig site, Hengoed, by contract, whilst the remaining 60 houses are being erected at Gwerthonor site, Pengam, by direct administration from my Department.

All of these are in an advanced stage.

The position of the various Schemes is as follows :—

226 houses are erected and in course of construction at Heolddu site, Bargoed, with sufficient land purchased for a further 200 houses.

110 houses erected and in course of construction at Gwerthonor site, Pengam. This site has been completely filled up with the exception of a portion of land which is unsuitable for building, due to subsidences.

120 houses erected and in course of construction at Graig site, Hengoed. This site has also been filled up with the exception of a small plot abutting the Hengoed Road and which is only suitable for shops, or public hall, etc.

12 houses at Fochriw are erected on the Common and the Council obtained a Closure Order for an inclusive area of about 13 acres should they decide to proceed with further houses on that site.

468 houses, being the total number of houses provided to date by the Council under the several Acts.

Sanction has also been obtained for 30 houses at Trelewis, for which the Ministry has withheld the loan.

An application has also been made for permission to proceed with a further 200 houses this year, and a five years' programme has been submitted to the Ministry, the Council suggested the erection of 400 annually, making a total of 2,000 houses.

The Council have also given assistance to private enterprise by way of the Subsidy grant and loan (under the 1923 Housing Act), in addition to the State Grant of £75, a contribution of £25 per house was made by the Council in the case of 202 houses, and the Government Subsidy only of £75 per house in the case of 5 houses. The 202 houses have been completed and occupied.

The Council have also adopted the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, and two applications have been dealt with and loans granted.

In connection with the Council's application to the Ministry of Health for a further extension of the Housing Schemes, it has been pointed out that there are at least 2,000 names on the lists of applications for houses, and that at least 2,000 men working in the

various collieries in the district are compelled to reside outside the area, due to the shortage of houses, which, if provided, would tend to a material reduction in the rates.

TOWN PLANNING.—The Area Map for the Town Planning Scheme has been deposited with the Ministry and approved, and progress made with the preparation of the “Preliminary Statement.”

A Civic Survey of the District is in progress for the collection of data necessary when proposals under the Scheme are considered.

P. JONES WILLIAMS,

L.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I.,

Housing and Town
Planning Architect.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER'S REPORT.

1. Electricity Supply was first introduced into the Gellygaer Area in the year 1908 by The Rhymney Valley and General Electric Supply Company. The extent of the developments of the Company was, however, limited to Hanbury Road, High Street, and Hillside Park, Bargoed.

2. In 1914 this Council obtained Provisional Orders for the Supply and Distribution of Electricity in Bedlinog and Fochriw, but owing to the War intervening, these powers were not exercised.

3. In 1919, the Bedwellty Urban District Council promoted a Parliamentary Bill to acquire the whole of the Company's Undertaking, and dispose to each local authority the Electrical Works within each of their areas. The Gellygaer Urban District Council acquired the works at Bargoed for the sum of £5,528.

4. Once Electricity was available the demand rapidly spread, and in 1919, the year of acquisition, the Company had by a progressive sales and wiring department, practically connected all possible consumers on the route of Mains.

5. Numerous applications were at this time being received from different parts of the District for Electrical Service, and the Council decided to have a general electrification scheme prepared for the installation of Mains throughout their Area, for the provision of both Private and Public Lighting Supply.

6. In 1920, Estimates and Plans for the General Scheme were submitted to the Electricity Commissioners, and sanction was received for the works to be carried out.

7. A general District Canvass was taken, and it was decided to proceed only with extensions in the localities which would prove remunerative. In the case of Fochriw and Butetown, however, as Gas was not available, it was decided to proceed irrespective of the result of the canvass.

8. The extensions, which are being carried out by direct labour, were commenced in September, 1921, and the Districts completed to March 31st, 1926, are as shewn in the next paragraph.

9. The following table compiled to March 31st, 1926, will show the position as to the prospective consumers obtained on a canvass taken for the purpose of the estimates, and on which the the Council decided to extend the Electricity Mains, also the extra consumers obtained on a subsequent re-canvass after the Mains were completed.

District.	Canvass taken for Estimating purposes.	Consumers Services connected up to 31/3/26	Increase of Consumers over Estimate.	Number of Premises in each District.	Percentage of Premises connected in each District.
Bargoed-Gilfach	663	1636	973	2458	67%
Hengoed & Ystrad	218	543	325	1083	50%
Pengam and Penpedairheol	18	133	115	252	53%
Trelewis	61	230	169	357	64%
Fochriw	182	295	113	359	82%
Pontlottyn	110	434	324	843	51%
Brithdir	82	263	181	312	84%
Tirphil	34	280	246	375	75%
Troedrhifuwch	9	73	64	102	72%
Butetown	17	45	28	74	61%
	1394	3932	2538	6215	63%

10. The Council obtain their Electricity Supply in bulk from the South Wales Power Company at 11,000 Volts, 25 cycles, and from the Powell Duffryn Steam Coal Company, Ltd., at 3,300 Volts, 50 cycles.

11. The Supply is taken from the Company's Main Feeder Cable and brought to the Council's various Sub-stations, and there transformed down to the required working voltage through the Department's Transformers and Switchgear.

12. The Supply for Bargoed is taken by loop Cable from the South Wales Power Company's Mains in Hanbury Road; at Hengoed it is tee'd from the Company's Cables at Maesycwmmmer; at Pengam it is looped from the Mains near the Grammar School, and at Fochriw from the Powell Duffryn Company's Ogilvie Colliery, and conveyed via Overhead Lines to the Substation at Pentwyn; at Pontlottyn the Supply is taken from The Powell Duffryn Company's Rhymney-Merthyr Colliery. The Supply for the Tirphil Ward is taken from the Elliot's Colliery.

13. The Council have their own Substations at Bargoed, Hengoed, Pengam, Fochriw, Pontlottyn and Brithdir, and portions of the Substation buildings are rented from The South Wales Power Company and the Powell Duffryn Company at Trelewis and Butetown respectively.

In four of the Substations, Testing apparatus has been installed for the testing and repairs of meters and instruments.

14. The Low Tension System of the Supply is an alternating current, Three Phase, Four Wire

One, at pressure of 400 Volts, between Phases, and 230 Volts, between One Phase and Neutral Wire. The Neutral Wire being "Split" to form an "insulated" earthed cradle guard under the "live" conductors.

15. Switch Wires are provided for the central control of the Street Lanterns, the supply being operated from the Substations through automatic time switches.

16. Distribution is carried out chiefly by means of bare copper overhead mains, which are carried on Steel and Wood Poles. Wood Poles being used only in smaller Districts.

17. In the case of the Council's Housing Scheme a unique system has been introduced, consisting of angle iron brackets fixed on the chimneys, the overhead lines being carried thereon, and the services led direct into the houses. This system has proved to be most satisfactory and economical.

18. Owing to the high cost of installation, underground cables are only introduced into Districts where, on account of engineering difficulties, it has not been possible to erect over head lines.

These Underground Cables consist of Impregnated Paper Insulation on the cores, lead covered with Double Steel Tape Armour, on the Low Tension Cables, and Double Steel Wire Armour, on the High Tension Cables, and in the case of the latter, a Board of Trade copper strip is included directly under the lead. The Cables are laid direct in the ground to a depth of 15 inches to 30 inches, and are protected in the footpath by creosoted covering boards, and in the roadway they are drawn through steel pipes.

19. At various points on the overhead and underground Distributors Section Boxes and Feeder Pillars have been introduced, to protect the Main Feeders from electrical faults on the Sub-section network cables.

20. The 11,000 Volt and 3,300 Volt Switchgear is of the Ironclad pattern, with Oil-switches and Isolating links. The Switchgear is equipped with automatic tripping features and safety inter-locking and shielding mechanism, whereby it is impossible for the operator to open the switch for examination without first having that particular portion made safe.

21. The 400/230 Volt permanent Feeder and Distribution Switchgear Panels are fitted with standard type Air break, over-load, and time limit attachments, which enable the circuits to be automatically isolated on faults without undue stress on the Transformer Plant and other parts of the Electrical System. The High Tensions and Low Tension Switchgear is so arranged that additions and repairs can be effected with a minimum shut-down of the supply.

22. The Transformer units are of the Oil-Cooled tubular tank pattern, and are designed to work in parallel on the 50 cycle and 25 cycle system, which enable the units to be inter-changeable in each District in the event of breakdown.

23. Some idea of the Electrical Developments and rapid growth of your Electricity Department is indicated in the following tables.

Extract from Technical Records compiled to Year ending March 31st.

Year ending March.	Route length of Mains in Miles.	Plant Capacity in K.W.	Consumers connected to Mains.	Public Lamps connected.	Output in Units.
1920	2.5	180	217		186206
1921	8.3	400	500	135	218413
1922	13.7	520	800	232	302783
1923	20.2	700	1215	359	388004
1924	24.0	1040	1394	434	536919
1925	29.0	1200	2604	566	685998
1926	31.0	1200	3932	634	849164

FIRE MASTER'S REPORT.

Fire Station, Bargoed,

February 22nd, 1926.

Fire Brigade Quinquennial Report to March 31st, 1926.

With regard to the period commencing 31st March, 1921, and ending the 30th September, 1924, I am sorry that I can only refer you to Reports that have already passed through the hands of the Council.

I can only say that there appears to have been little progress towards efficiency during this period.

FIRE CALLS. Since October 1st, 1925, to present day, 19 calls have been received from inside the district, and one from outside. To those necessitating the attendance of the Bargoed engine, the average time taken to respond to each call was three minutes. Compared with the average time taken when the Brigade had only a manual engine, and the entire staff were auxiliary men, this is a decided improvement in efficiency, and is probably responsible for the fact that no fire that can be called serious has occurred in your district since the arrival of the new engine.

DRILLS. These are performed regularly at the chief and substations, and amount to two per month at the sub stations, and three per month at the chief station, with an occasional extra drill when required.

BRIGADE STAFF.—The staff consists of one Chief Officer, one Second Officer, 5 Lieutenants, 2 Permanent Firemen, 35 Retained Firemen—Total 44.

Compared with an authorised total of 60 retained men under the old regulations.

MOTOR FIRE ENGINE. Your "Halley" fire engine was put into commission about the middle of October, 1924, and has only been out of commission for a period

of three hours since its arrival. It has been tried on all the difficult hills in your district, and as far as power is concerned, can negotiate these with ease. The pump forming part of the engine, has had two or three tests since its arrival, and has proved quite efficient.

BARGOED FIRE STATION. Since the purchase of this building, the following additions have been provided :—

Quick opening main doors, which permit the engine to be run out in less than 15 seconds, providing the necessary men are on the spot.

A Chief Officer's office and a duty-room has been fitted up, in which there is installed a telephone instrument, with extension lines to the Chief and Second Officer's quarters.

Nine Firemen's houses are connected by electric call-bells, and these can be rung simultaneously from the duty-room.

A billiard table has been installed at the station, and this was purchased and is maintained by the Officers and men of the Brigade. The Bargoed Fire Station can now be regarded as being in an efficient condition so far as appliances and facilities to keep them in order are concerned, but it is to be regretted that this efficient condition is somewhat negatived by the fact that there is no housing accommodation for the staff as a whole.

SUB-STATIONS.—The various Sub-Stations have not been improved as yet on account of the decision to erect suitable motor stations, one on each side of the district. One of these is about to be commenced at Tre-lewis, and when the other is completed at Tirphil, the Brigade as a whole will be able to co-operate in the event of a serious fire in any part of your district.

WATER SUPPLY.—The supply of water for fire-fighting-purposes is a source of anxiety due to the

recurring breakages of the trunk main. When this is being repaired from time to time, it is invariably necessary for the Water Engineer to shut off the supply to Bargoed, and during these periods the Brigade would be powerless to cope with anything of a serious nature.

The fire hydrants throughout your area have in the past been placed in the roadway, with the result that they are sometimes buried and displaced by heavy traffic, and are very difficult to locate when snow is on the ground. The ideal place for a hydrant is in the pavement, where they are clear of traffic and can be easily located and kept clean and workable. Besides this the maintenance costs are practically nil.

The hydrants throughout your area are of two types, viz., the ball type and the screw type, and this necessitates carrying extra appliances on your fire machine. There is nothing to indicate whether any particular hydrant is a ball or a screw, and this is apt to cause serious delay. The hydrants should be standardised as far as possible, and the ball type should only be installed where the engineer requires them to permit a pressure of air into the mains. Several of the hydrants have no indicating plates, but this matter is receiving my attention.

Facilities for collecting water from the mains in the vicinity of the Emporium and surrounding property at Bargoed are at present inadequate should a serious fire occur in this vicinity.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL The fire appliances at your Hospital are periodically examined and kept in order by the Fire Brigade, and the Staff are instructed in their use.

Rules and general instructions have been passed and circulated to all members of the Brigade, and these are calculated to give the staff a better knowledge of their work, and thus promote efficiency.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. A Public Mortuary for this district alone or in combination with adjoining districts is urgently required. This should contain ample provision for Post Mortem Examinations.

2. The urgent necessity for Houses still continues, and in my opinion, despite all efforts, overcrowding is increasing.

3. In many of the Barber's Shops and Ice Cream Shops in the district there is much room for the more Hygenic carrying out of these businesses.

4. I hope the Council will consider in the near future the institution of a Sanitary Office in Trelewis or Bedlinog. which, I feel sure, would greatly add to the efficient Sanitary Administration of the District.

